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REMARKS

In the first Office Action, claims 1 and 15 were objected to with regard to the phrase "within the wheel." The Examiner suggested that the language does not clearly describe the invention and suggested the alternative language —within said outer hub—. Applicant has now amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 9 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Black, U.S. Patent No. 4,295,686. Black teaches a wheel construction including an outer annulus 28 which is injection molded around a pair of disks 11, 12 to hold them together. The Examiner asserts that the annulus 28 is equivalent to applicant's outer hub, and that the disks are equivalent to applicant's spacers. However, Black does not teach or suggest that his disks are removable or interchangeable as recited in claim 1, as amended. Nor would there be any motivation to modify Black as he clearly teaches forming the annulus around the disks.

The Examiner further asserts that Black's "hub" 28 includes grooves or recesses as claimed to receive the tips 23, 23A of the disks. However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Black that the inner surface of the annulus includes a groove or recessed area as recited in applicant's claims 6 and 7. Rather, Black teaches that the annulus 28 is injection molded around the disks such that the annulus extends around the sides of the tips 23, 23A. See col. 3, lines 28-32. This is clearly not equivalent to applicant's claimed groove/recessed area as shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings. Nor does Black teach or suggest an outer hub which includes both a groove and a recessed area for receiving the disks as recited in new claim 21. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 9 and 17, as amended, and new claim 21 are believed to be clearly patentable over Black.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 13, 15, 16, 19 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by MacBeth. MacBeth teaches a vehicle wheel including a tire rim B and spoke members or disks A which engage with flanges or stops on the

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inner surface of the tire rim. The Examiner asserts that the disks of MacBeth would be removable by reversing the assembly process described in the reference. Applicants disagree. MacBeth is not directed to a **skate** wheel including decorative spacers which are designed to be removed easily and interchanged as taught and claimed in the present invention, but rather is directed to a **vehicle** wheel including spoke members which are designed to be secured to the wheel. There is no teaching or suggestion in MacBeth of removing or interchanging the spoke members, nor is there any indication in MacBeth that this could be achieved by snapping or popping the spokes out of the outer/inner hub as taught in the present invention.

Applicant further notes that MacBeth does not teach or teach or suggest an outer hub which is bonded to an outer polymeric layer as recited in claims 1 and 15. Nor does MacBeth teach or suggest an outer hub including both a groove and a recessed area for receiving spacers as recited in new claim 21.

Claims 10, 11, 12, 14, and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over MacBeth. The Examiner has taken the position that it would have been obvious to form the inner and outer hubs from aluminum, to form the spacers from aluminum, titanium, or plastic, and to provide the spacers with a decorative colored finish. However, there is no motivation modify MacBeth, which is directed to a **vehicle** wheel, not a **skate** wheel. Even if MacBeth taught the use of the claimed materials, the claimed invention would not be met as MacBeth does not teach a skate wheel which has **removable and interchangeable** decorative spacers, nor does he teach or suggest a construction in which the hub is **bonded** to an outer polymeric layer.

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For all of the above reasons, applicants submit that claims 1 and 3-20, as amended, and new claim 21, are clearly patentable over the cited references. Early notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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